

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2833

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T USUN 4960

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF, MARR

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH USYG URQUHART ON UNEF EXTENSION

REF: STATE 241546

1. AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, AMBASSADOR SHERER AND MISOFF LORENZ CALLED ON USYG URQUHART OCTOBER 10 TO ATTEMPT TO DISSUADE SECRETARIAT FROM ISSUING INTERIM REPORT. EFFORT WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL. URQUHART CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL TO COVER SECRETARY-GENERAL AS UNEF UNDERTOOK FUNCTIONS OUTSIDE THE PRESENT MANDATE IN A NEW GEOGRAPHIC AREA. HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS THAT UNEF HAD BEGUN DEFENSE OF RAS SUDAR PERIMETER -- A TASK DERIVING SOLELY FROM NEW SINAI AGREEMENT -- AND WAS ALREADY VULNERABLE TO CRITICISM THAT IT HAD GONE BEYOND MANDATE. AS URQUHART PUT IT, "I DON'T MIND WHEN MALIK CRITICIZES THE SECRETARIAT, BUT I HATE LIKE HELL WHEN HE'S RIGHT."

2. SHERER SAID WE UNDERSTOOD URQUHART'S CONCERN AND INDEED HAD NOT REALIZED THAT UNEF, AS DISTINCT FROM UNTSO, WAS ALREADY ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN CARRYING OUT PROVISIONS OF NEW AGREEMENT. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE

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AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE TO WORK MATTERS OUT WITH PARTIES.

URQUHART AGREED TO DELAY SENDING INTERIM REPORT (IN FORM OF SYG LETTER TO SC PRESIDENT) UNTIL MONDAY AFTER-NOON, OCTOBER 13. HE EXPECTS MAIN REPORT ON MANDATE EXTENSION TO COME OUT TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER THAT BUT NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 18. URQUHART SAID THE EXTENSION REPORT WILL BE EXTREMELY GENERAL, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS FINANCES WHICH ARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S PURVIEW, AND WILL SIMPLY ESTIMATE MAGNITUDE OF INCREASED SIZE AND COST OF FORCE. URQUHART TOOK NOTE WITH APPRECIATION OF DEPARTMENT'S SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON HANDLING OTHER ASPECTS OF REPORT.

3. AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSION, URQUHART REMARKED THAT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR MEGUID HAD BEEN IN EARLIER IN DAY TO ASK, ON INSTRUCTIONS, THAT MAIN REPORT BE HELD UP AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. MEGUID SAID FAHMY NEEDED AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE "TO WORK OUT CERTAIN PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH DURATION OF THE NEXT EXTENSION." URQUHART SAID HE TOLD MEGUID THE REPORT HAD TO BE OUT NEXT WEEK, AND URGED HIM TO CONVEY THIS TO FAHMY. HE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL FOR HIM TO KNOW THE NATURE OF THE DURATION PROBLEM, AND ASKED THAT HE BE KEPT IN THE PICTURE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: WE THINK IT WOULD BE IN THE US INTEREST TO INFORM URQUHART IN CONFIDENCE OF THE NATURE OF THE DURATION PROBLEM SINCE HE COULD THEN USE HIS INGENUITY TO HELP RESOLVE IT. REQUEST AUTHORITY TO DESCRIBE SITUATION TO HIM.
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